

VPA Open Gradebook Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is Veritas Prep offering open gradebooks?

We have long adhered to the principle that parents are the primary educators of their children. Our network of academies has been built with that principle in mind. In reflecting on this principle, we have been considering greater visibility into our gradebooks. In keeping with our vision of partnership with you, we are happy to open our gradebooks.

When will gradebooks be updated?

Our gradebooks are open but not “real time.” Students are likely to receive in-person feedback on assignments before the online gradebooks are updated, so it remains important to review your child’s returned work with him or her. Families should not expect to see updates immediately after a test or due date. Gradebooks will be updated on an ongoing basis. Teachers are able to publish assignments on a cadence that makes sense for their course. Generally, you can expect to see a major assignment within one to two weeks of its due date. There will be natural variation from teacher to teacher.

Will an approximate overall letter grade be viewable to parents/students?

Gradebooks will be accessible in the PowerSchool parent portal within the first few days of each quarter, showing your child’s ongoing work as the quarter unfolds. In the second half of the quarter, an overall letter grade for each course will be provided.

What are the different views in the gradebook?

In the desktop version, click “**Grades**” and then the course letter grade to see assignments and comments for a particular course. Click “**Report Card**” to see category averages and an approximate overall letter grade. In the mobile version, click “**Dashboard**” and select the desired course.

Will I see missing assignments?

Yes, any posted assignment with a “missing” flag or a 0 is likely missing. We will no longer send weekly missing assignment reports.

What other information is provided besides scores and letter grades?

Teachers may use assignment flags: absent, missing, incomplete. If the teacher has written a comment for the assignment, it will be indicated by a “View” link to the right of the assignment.

Will we receive mid-quarter progress reports or deficiency notices?

No, we will no longer send mid-quarter progress reports or deficiency notices since that information is available to families through the portal.

What if I don’t understand the reason for a particular assignment score?

First, ask your child to tell you about the assignment or to show you the returned work with teacher feedback. Second, check to see if the assignment has a teacher comment, marked by a “View” link in the comments column. Third, encourage your child to speak with the teacher to better understand. Finally, parents are welcome to contact the teacher directly.

How can I help my child if I see persistent low grades in any category?

If you notice low grades in any category (including participation), we recommend discussing the feedback with your child, identifying any challenges he or she may be facing (e.g. organization of materials, use of Lyceum time, homework habits, sleep/eating habits, etc.), and working together to develop viable strategies for improvement. Further, please encourage your child to speak with his or her teacher. Of course, you may also set up a parent/teacher meeting or phone call as well. Ultimately, the formation of students' characters and imaginations is a long-term project, involving an exposure to great works and thinking over time. Regular communication between parents and teachers can ensure that your child gets the support he or she needs. VPA students invest a great deal in their education, and thus teachers and parents/guardians should be unanimous in their support of the students and one another.

What should I do if I notice an error in my child's gradebook?

If you notice any discrepancies, please encourage your child to speak with his or her teacher. We encourage open communication between teachers and students, and teachers will be happy to review any concerns.

May my student have his/her own account?

We are looking into this possibility.

How do I get help accessing the online gradebooks if I am having trouble? Our front desk will be able to help you in person or over the phone.